

December 8, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly

Dear Chairman Wheeler, and Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O'Rielly,

We are so pleased to know that you are considering taking action on a Report and Order on December 15 for Real Time Text Technology (RTT). RTT will be a far more superior, advancing technology that replaces TTY as a text mode of communication. It won't be just us deaf and hard of hearing people that will use it as a regular means of communication. Our hearing counterparts will use it as much with us for our interpersonal relations as family members or professional colleagues in the workplace. Having as much options in direct communication will greatly lessen both sides' having to rely on relay services as a last resort.

We have asked the Commission to consider producing action as far back to maybe ten years ago. The time is right for the Commission to act on it, and we have collaborated with industry and academia to make this a win-win situation for all. For your benefit, here is a link to an article, "Making the Case for Real Time Text Technology," which I wrote about eight years ago for TDI's quarterly magazine, TDI World, pages 4, 6, and 10 on the benefits we would enjoy from using RTT:

<https://tdiforaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TDIWorld41.1Final.pdf>

Thank you for your full consideration to take formal action on RTT. This will help us function more and better on par with our hearing relatives, friends, and professionals on a daily basis. More importantly, we will realize additional opportunities in various life activity areas as a result of using RTT - education, employment, medicine, commerce. law, finance, civics, community service, athletics, etc.

Last but not least, thanks for all your great work and that of your respective staff members during the Wheeler years. With your leadership and activism, FCC continues to be the best federal agency that addresses our access needs in the general community. Thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,
Claude Stout
Executive Director
Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, inc. (TDI)